



## News Release

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## MILLIONS IN REFUND AND CHILD TAX CREDIT CHECKS RETURNED TO IRS; TAXPAYERS URGED TO UPDATE ADDRESSES BY DEC. 5

The Internal Revenue Service has money for 1,618 Wisconsin taxpayers whose income tax refunds or advance child tax credit checks were returned to the agency as undeliverable.

The agency's list of undelivered checks for Wisconsin taxpayers this year totals more than \$945,000 and includes 784 "regular" income tax refunds worth more than \$524,000—an average of \$669 per check. The checks range from as low as \$1 to over \$73,000.

The list also includes an additional 872 advance child tax credit checks, worth more than \$424,000, that were mailed to taxpayers this past summer. The IRS says taxpayers who want the benefit of the advance child tax credit payment must update their addresses by Dec. 5 so the checks can be reissued before Dec. 31, 2003. Taxpayers who miss the cutoff won't miss their child tax credit, however, because they can simply claim the credit when they complete their 2003 tax return next year.

Nationally, the IRS has money for nearly 200,000 taxpayers totaling more than \$118 million. This includes over 115,000 advance child tax credit checks worth more than \$50 million and about 92,000 regular tax refunds totaling more than \$66 million—an average of \$722 per check.

The IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) lets taxpayers track both their income tax refund and their advance child tax credit check. In many cases, taxpayers will also get instructions they need to resolve problems. "Where's My Refund?" provides information about regular tax refunds and "Where's My Advance Child Tax Credit?" provides information about the child tax credit checks. To use these search features, taxpayers enter information including their Social Security number and their filing status (such as single or married filing jointly). Taxpayers will also need to enter the refund amount shown on their 2002 tax return. To get information on the advance child tax credit, taxpayers must also enter the number of exemptions shown on their 2002 tax return.

Taxpayers without access to the Internet who think they may be missing a refund or advance child tax credit check should first check their records or contact their tax preparer before calling the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040 to update their address.

Donna Migazzi, IRS spokesperson for Wisconsin, said there are several reasons why checks don't reach taxpayers. "Most often it's because of a move or a major life change," said Migazzi. "A marriage or a name change often causes an address change. If neither the IRS nor the U.S. Postal Service is notified of this change, a check sent to the last known address will be returned to the IRS." Taxpayers who move should notify the IRS by filing Form 8822, *Change of Address*. It's available on [irs.gov](http://irs.gov) or by calling 1-800-829-3676.

Migazzi said taxpayers could avoid undelivered refund checks by having their refunds deposited directly into a personal bank account. Direct deposit also guards against theft or lost refund checks. The option is available on both paper and e-filed returns. Direct deposit was not available for the advance child tax credit checks.

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**Note to Editor:** If you'd like a list of names of taxpayers in your area to localize your story and/or to post on your Web site, please send an e-mail to: [donna.j.migazzi@irs.gov](mailto:donna.j.migazzi@irs.gov). Please provide me with the cities for which you'd like a listing, your name, media name, phone number and e-mail address. Thank you.